

Faith or Just a Name?

By Mansoor Ali Shah

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Mansoor: Baba, what is the difference between a Muslim and a believer? Aren't they the same?

Baba: That's a very good question, my dear. Being a Muslim means a person says, La ilaha illallah, Muhammadur Rasulallah—that there is no god but Allah, and Muhammad ﷺ is His Messenger. But being a true believer means having faith deep in the heart and acting upon it sincerely.

Mansoor: Oh! So someone can be a Muslim but not a strong believer?

Baba: Yes, my son. In a Hadith, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ once corrected a companion, Sa'd (RA), when he called a man a faithful believer. The Prophet ﷺ replied, "Or merely a Muslim."

Mansoor: Why did he say that, Baba?

Baba: Because only Allah truly knows what is inside a person's heart. Sometimes, we see someone doing good, but we don't know their true intentions. The Prophet ﷺ was teaching us not to judge people's faith by what we see on the outside.

Mansoor: So we shouldn't assume that someone is the best Muslim just because they look good or pray a lot?

Baba: Exactly! A true believer is someone who not only prays and follows Islam but also does it sincerely for Allah, not for praise or reward from people.

Mansoor: How can I make sure I am a true believer, Baba?

Baba: By always remembering Allah in your heart, doing good deeds without showing off, and being kind and honest. The more we love Allah and follow His guidance, the stronger our faith becomes.

Mansoor: I want to be a true believer, Baba!

Baba: InshaAllah, my dear. Keep your heart sincere, and Allah will guide you.